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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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A report on the organization and functions of the consumer's cooperative in Koksan County, Hwanghae-pukto, the prices of commodities on sale at the cooperative, the salary scale, and personal descriptions of some of its employees

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I. Details

Koksan-gun Joint Committee, Korean Consumers' Guild

7 Dec 57

1. According to the rules of the consumers' guild, all citizens, male and female, above the full age of 18, may join by making free application for membership. But in fact, it is obligatory and not optional to become a member. At present, 10,000 people out of the total population of 30,000 in Koksan-gun are members of the guild, which collects 300 Won from each member as admission fee at the time of induction. This is an increase of 200 Won over the amount collected up to Dec 56. The management runs the guild with this fee although it is being run with the financial aid of the Central Bank or the Farmers' Bank. The management is supposed to sell its purchased goods to its members only, but now money can buy anything at the store of the guild, which started its business in 1946, to do away with all profiteers and private merchants by way of strengthening the national economic control and providing daily commodities to the members to promote their living level. It was the first step ever taken toward the socialization of the economic structure by instructing the people to understand that the circulation of commodities through an organized channel was most important in safeguarding the interests of the people. In outward appearance, the guild is maintained by the "independent accounting system", but it is a semi-national undertaking, operated under the national budget. At present its business is being expanded to make it a pure national enterprise in the near future.

Functions

2. The Central Joint Committee is the supreme organ above all consumers' guilds. It is located in P'yongyang, and is operated under the direction of the Commercial Department, CC, KLP, which orders the committee to call a guild enthusiasts' conference once a year. At this conference, the staff officers from provinces and counties and enthusiastic salesmen from the local guild stores participate in the summary report on the business results of the past business year and in the audience of lectures for the coming business period. The committee also organizes various lecture meetings from time to time in order to give training to the members of the guild.
3. The provincial joint committee is operated under the directions of the central joint committee and the Commercial Department of the provincial KLP committee. It also organizes enthusiasts' conference and lecture meetings on its own accord at all times.
4. The Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Joint Committee is operated under the directions of the Hwanghae-bukto Consumers' Guild Joint Committee and the Organization Department of the Koksan-gun KLP Committee. It consists of approximately 35 committeemen, elected at the County Guild Representatives'

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Conference. The committeemen organize a standing committee to which they entrust the execution of business and come into a regular session in each quarter period to make summary reports on business results, and it also opens lecture meetings once a month for two (2) or three (3) days for the employees in order to strengthen their service spirit, prevent dispossession and theft, explain Party policy on commerce, and to give information on the domestic and international situation. The lectures are given by the chairman and vice-chairman of the county joint committee, the staff officers from the Koksang-gun KLP Committee, and the Koksang-gun People's Committee.

5. The Koksang-gun Consumers' Guild Representatives' Congress comes into regular session once each year, and temporary sessions by order of higher authorities, at the call of the county joint committee. It is attended by the chairmen of the junior Party organs and the management chairmen of farm cooperatives, and other enthusiasts in the business of the consumers' guild. Unlike the Party conferences, the attendance is not so large and it seldom exceeds 300 people. At the congress, summary reports on business results of the past business period are presented and officers of county joint committees are elected. In former days, there were no representatives' congress, and even staff members were appointed by the higher authorities, but from early 57, it is called with the slogan of democratic government.
6. The standing committee consists of nine (9) members, who elect the chairman and two (2) vice chairmen. They are supposed to come into regular sessions twice a month, but in fact only once at present.
7. The chairman is the head of the county joint committee and its standing committee. He is nominally elected at the standing committee meeting or rather approved unconditionally on being recommended by the Organization Department of the county Party concerned. The chairman is responsible for the undertaking of the consumers' guild in the county. He represents the guild in all public relations, calls various conferences and settles all sorts of accounting, while maintaining a close liaison with the county Party chairman, vice-chairman, and the chairman of the county people's committee.
8. The two (2) vice-chairmen in charge of organizing commerce, and purchasing and accounting respectively.
9. The chief of the Organization Department is responsible for the business organization of subordinate organs, and especially for the Party business of the county consumers' guild. He holds the additional post of chairman of the junior Party of the county joint committee.
10. The Commercial Department seeks places of origin of all goods in order to make purchases and to regulate sales. The department has a second-hand Soviet truck and a driver, for the transport of goods, and in addition, a guard who rides on the truck for the security of the goods in transportation.

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11. The chief warehouseman is responsible for the custody and delivery of goods. The warehouse is a one (1)-story building, ten (10) meters long, five (5) meters wide, and five (5) meters high. It is so small that a large portion of the goods are piled in the open air. The chief controls two (2) laborers.
12. The Purchasing Department is in charge of buying all surplus farm products such as rice, miscellaneous grains, medicinal herbs and vegetables, offered by farmers for sale after payment of their tax-in-kind and the national collection of grains. These farm products are usually bought at higher prices than those paid by the Government.
13. The Accounting Section is in charge of all financial receipts and disbursements, cash settlements, bank transactions, bookkeeping, and wage payments to employees.
14. The Planning Director prepares sales statistics, receipts and stockpiles of goods in the warehouse at the end of each month, and submits one (1) copy to the provincial joint committee via the vice-chairman in charge, with the approval of the chairman, before the fifth day of the following month, and he keeps another copy. He also inspects each restaurant to see that sales plans are faithfully executed.
15. The restaurant manager is responsible for the operation of the restaurant of the Koksang-gun Consumers' Guild in Koksang-gun and controls one (1) cook and four (4) waitresses. The restaurant was newly built in the spring of 57, with capacity for 40 visitors. The menu and the prices are as follows:

<u>Menu</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (Won)</u>
Rice in soup	Bowl	50 - 70
Vermicelli in cold soup (corn)	"	35
Vermicelli in cold soup (oatmeal)	"	60
Lunch	"	70
Soju (strong drink)	Syng	250

16. Each consumers' guild management committee is composed at the guild members' general meeting in each district, and the committee consists of 9 - 11 members, who elect a chairman and vice-chairman. In larger districts, however, they elect two (2) vice-chairmen. The chairman is chosen usually from among the management committee chairmen of the farm cooperatives in the district, but since he is not on the payroll, he is indifferent to the business of the guild in many cases. The chairman, by order of the county guild, calls the general meeting of his district guild for summary reports on business results during the past period, and for the election of the management committeemen to assist the district guild store in doing business.

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17. The barber shop of the Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild, has three (3) barbers, and is run under the supervision of the chief of the Commercial Department by special directive of the vice-chairman in charge of accounting. The barber shop is next door to the consumers' guild store, where the people buy tickets at 35 W^{on} a piece, and have their hair cut in order. Each barber has a responsible norm to cut the hair for 17 people a day. There is another barber shop of the Production Cooperative, which is always full of visitors.
18. There is a shop in each town and district. Each shop in Koksan-gun and 16 districts in Koksan-gun is manned by a manager and one (1) salesman.

Commodity Prices

19. The following are the prices of common commodities on sale at the Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Store:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (W^{on})</u>
Match, NK	Box	5
Cigarettes (Taedongmun), NK	Packet	20
Cigarettes (Kalmaegi), NK	"	25
Cigarettes (K ^{ons} ol), NK	"	35
Cigarettes (K ^{ym} gang), NK	"	60
Confectionery (Moranbong), NK	Box (Weight unknown)	280
Towel, Cotton, NK	Each	150 - 250
Soap, Toilet, NK	Bar	100 - 150
Soap, Laundry, NK	Bar	100
Toothbrush, NK	Each	70 - 80
Tooth-Powder, NK	Each	10
Tooth-Paste, NK	Each	80
Socks, NK	Pair	70 - 100
Pencil, Black, NK	Each	3
Pencil, Red, NK	Each	10
Notebook, School children, NK	Each	5
Notebook, College students, NK	Each	40
Book, Account, NK	Each	280
Mirror, Portable, NK	Each	50
Comb, Hair, NK	Each	100
Handbag, Fiber, Student, NK	Each	800
Shoes, Rubber, Women's, NK	Pair	340 - 390
Shoes, Rubber, Men's, NK	Pair	350 - 400
Sneakers, NK	Pair	380
Shoes, Leather, ready made, NK	Pair	1,800 - 2,200
Shirt, Running, NK	Each	300
Shorts, NK	Each	200
Underwear, Spring & Autumn, Cotton, Gray, NK	Suit	1,600
Underwear, Short, Winter, NK	Upper	1,500
Underwear, Short, Winter, NK	Lower	1,200
Sheeting, Cotton, Grade C, NK	Meter	200
Clothing, Silk, Skirt, (Yutong), NK	Each	6,000 - 8,000

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Cloth, Silk, Grade C, NK	Meter	420
Cloth, Silk, Grade B, NK	Meter	1,200 - 1,500
Cloth, Silk, Grade A, NK	Meter	2,000 - 2,500
Powder, Ink, NK (Made by P'yongyang Ink Production Cooperative)	Bag	60
Clothing, Cotton, Read Made, NK	Suit	3,300 - 3,500
Clothing, Children's, Ready Made, NK	Suit	1,500
Shirt, White, NK	Each	1,200 - 1,500
Tie, NK	Each	800 - 1,200
Cap, Lenin, NK	Each	300 - 350
Clothing, Foreign, Winter, (East Germany & Czechoslovakia)	Suit	22,000 - 25,000
Alaska Pollack, NK	Each	5 - 7
Mackerel, NK	Two	150
Pork, NK	Kyŏn	150

(Remarks: No beef is on sale, because the slaughter of cattle is forbidden.)

20. Source of Goods: Most commodities are delivered to the Hwanghae-bukto Consumers' Bazaar Warehouse, at YC 4064 in Sariwŏn-si, on presenting the goods allocation slip, issued at the Commercial Department of the Provincial Consumers' Guild Joint Committee; seafoods are purchased at the Marine Production Cooperative in Wŏnsan-si by contract and are carried by truck; vegetables and bean paste are kept in stock through the Purchasing Department.

21. Salary Schedule of County Consumers' Guild Employees

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary (Per Month)</u>
Chairman	3,200 Wŏn
Vice-Chairman	2,800
Departmental	2,500
Sectional Chief	2,200
Director, Grade A	2,000
Director, Grade B	1,800 - 2,000
Laborer	1,800
Store Manager	2,200
Salesman	1,600 - 1,800
Truck Driver	2,500

(Remarks: The truck driver is a temporary employee. Since he is not allowed rice distribution, he buys rice at a high price.)

22. Personalities

- a. Name: CHANG Ch'ang-yŏng (NTA)

- e. Position: Chief, Commercial Department, Koksŏn-gun, Consumers' Guild Joint Committee.

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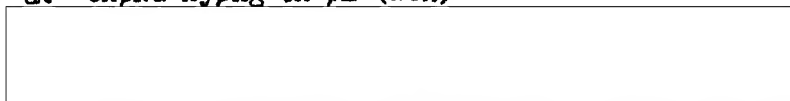
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2) a. CHONG Hyong-ch'ol (NTA)



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e. Chief, Organization Department, Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Joint Committee.

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3) a. KIM Ki-chun (NTA)



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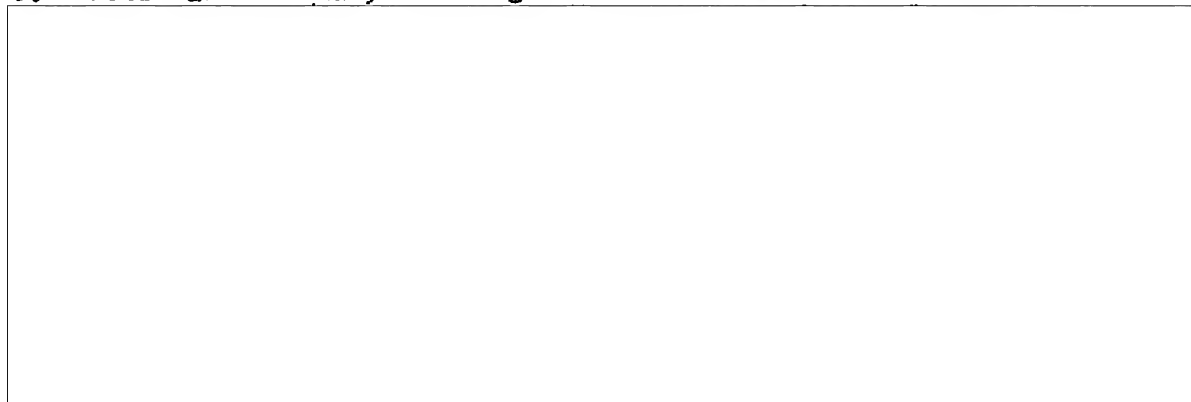
4) a. KIM Ki-t'aek (NTA)



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e. Chief Warehouseman, Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Joint Committee

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5) a. KIM T'aek-kyu (NTA)

[Redacted]

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e. Vice Chairman (in charge of accounting), Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild,

[Redacted]

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6) a. ~~SON~~ Tong-sul (NTA)

[Redacted]

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e. Chairman, Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Joint Committee.

[Redacted]

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7) a. SONG To-sŏn (NTA)

[Redacted]

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e. Vice Chairman (in charge of commerce & organization), Koksan-gun Consumers' Guild Joint Committee.

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Central Joint Committee, Consumers' Guild

Hwanghae-bukto Joint Committee

Koksan-gun Joint Committee

County Guild Representatives' Congress

Standing Committee Meeting

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Chief, Organization Department

Officer (1)

Chief, Commercial Department

Officers (3)

Truck Driver (1)

Guard (1)

Chief Warehouseman

Laborers

District Guild Members' General Meeting

Vice Chairman

Restaurant Manager

Waitresses

Cook

Chief, Purchasing Department

Officers (5)

Chief, Accounting Section

Accountants (2)

Bookkeepers (3)

Planning Director

Chairman, District Management Committee

Vice Chairman (1 - 2)

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Organizational Chart

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